

A NEW AFRICAN GALL MIDGE

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Megauchomyia new genus

This remarkable form belongs in the Dasynuriariae, and falls in our key next to *Stomatosema* Kieff., from which it is easily separated by the fourteen antennal segments, and especially by the greatly produced neck, and the prolonged mouth parts. Type, *M. africana* new species.

Megauchomyia africana new species.

The small midges were taken by Dr. Jos. Bequaert of the Department of Tropical Medicine, Harvard University Medical School, as they were hovering over coccids at the end of a branch at Bakratown, Liberia. He suggests that they may be a parasitic species. The peculiar structure of the mouth parts indicates a possibility that they were attracted by honey-dew secreted by the scale insects.

MALE: Length 2 mm., antennæ probably extending to the base of the abdomen, presumably with fourteen sub-cylindrical, sub-sessile segments; the first with a length one-half greater than its diameter, tapering basally; the second globose. Palpi very slender, quadriarticulate, the first segment with a length fully five times its diameter, the second one-half the length of the first, the third nearly twice as long as the second, and the fourth as long as the third, somewhat dilated; all sparsely setose. Eyes large, black, holoptic, comprising most of the head, three ocelli. The yellowish mouth parts are greatly produced and with a length distinctly greater than the diameter of the head. The caudo-ventral aspect of the head with a thick tuft of long curving setæ; the more ventral ones turning anteriorly. Neck slender, with a length almost equal to that of the entire thorax. Mesonotum yellowish, scutellum whitish, post-scutellum yellowish and sparsely haired. Abdomen pale yellow, wings hyaline, sub-costa uniting with the margin at the basal third; the third vein well beyond the apex; the fifth near the basal third; its branch at the distal fourth. Halteres fuscous yellowish, whitish basally. Legs a nearly uniform pale straw, the distal tarsal segments darker; claws moderately long, strongly curved, probably all unidentate; pulvilli rudimentary. Genitalia, basal clasp segment moderately long, stout, with a distinct internal lobe near the middle; terminal segment long; slender and slightly curved sub-basally and sub-apically; dorsal plate broad, partly divided, the lateral lobes irregularly and roundly excavated and the lateral angles prolonged as broad, tapering, setose appendages; ventral plate short, broad, triangularly emarginate.

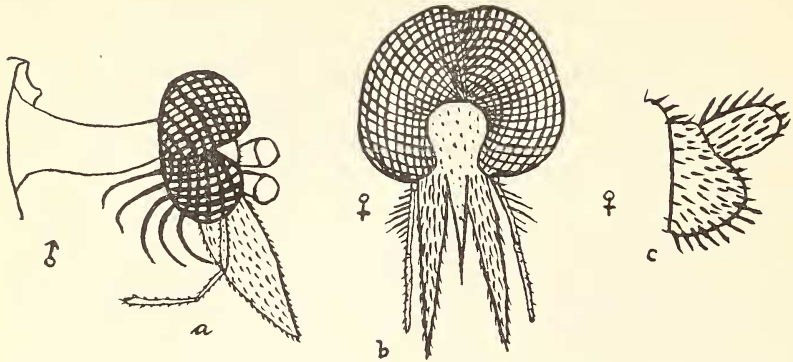


FIGURE 1. *Megauchomyia africana*: *a*, dorso-lateral view of head of male, showing neck, eyes, basal antennal segments and mouth parts; *b*, front view of head of female; *c*, side view of tip of female abdomen, showing lobes of the ovipositor (original).

FEMALE: Length 2.5 mm., antennæ with fourteen sub-cylindrical, subsessile segments; the first with a length nearly twice its diameter; the second sub-globose; the fifth sub-cylindrical with a length two and one-half times its diameter; terminal segment with a length three times its diameter and a long, stout, finger-like apical process. Palpi nearly as in the male except that they are a little stouter. Mouth parts consisting of two long, densely setose, outer processes, which are readily apposed and a median narrow triangular structure, presumably the labium. Ovipositor short, the terminal lobes biarticulate, the basal segment sub-quadrangle, the distal segment narrowly oval; the former densely setose ventrally, the latter rather sparsely clothed with stout, coarse setæ. Otherwise practically as in the male.

Type: C. A-3524, New York State Museum.